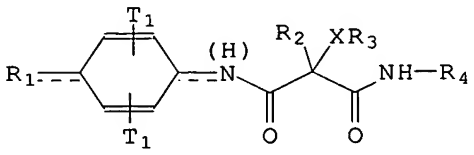
Abstract

The present invention provides optionally substituted compounds of the formula I or salts thereof;



(I)

wherein R_1 is O or S when double bonded to the ring or is OH, SH, or a protected equivalent, when single bonded to the ring, R_2 is hydrogen or more preferably an C_1-C_{10} organic group attached by a carbon atom, X is H, O, OO, S or SS R_3 is absent where X=H, is hydrogen or is a hydroxyl or thiol protecting group, R_4 is a hetero- or preferably homo-cyclic aryl group, optionally substituted with a further group R_5 and groups T_1 are each, independently, absent, hydrogen or an S-R_6 group, where any/each R_6 is independently an organic group of molecular weight up to around 500 amu. The invention further provides a method for the synthesis of such compounds and a method of treatment comprising administering such compounds to a mammalian subject.